United Nations S/2018/337

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 12 April 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my government, and with reference to my letters dated 3 April 2018, regarding a Houthi maritime terror attack, and dated 26 March 2018, informing of the interception of seven ballistic missiles launched by the Iranian-backed Houthi militia, targeting densely populated civilian areas in four cities, leading to the death of one Egyptian citizen, I am writing to inform you that yesterday, on 11 April 2018, Saudi Air Defence Forces intercepted three ballistic missiles fired by the Houthi militias from inside Yemeni territories (Saadah governorate and Northern Amran governorate). The three aforementioned missiles targeted densely populated civilian areas in the three cities of Riyadh, Najran and Jazan.

Furthermore, on the same day, Saudi Air Defence Forces also successfully downed two unmanned aerial vehicles launched by the Iran-backed Houthi militias from Yemeni territories towards the southern cities of Abha and Jazan respectively. The Houthi unmanned aerial vehicle in Abha was detected by the Saudi Air Defence Force flying towards Abha International Airport; after this unmanned aerial vehicle was neutralized, air navigation was immediately closed in accordance with global aviation laws, then reopened to and from the airport once the situation was deemed to be under control. Specialists examined fragments of the unmanned aerial vehicle and determined that it was a Houthi drone with Iranian features and specifications. The unmanned aerial vehicle intercepted over a civilian landmark in Jazan was determined to be identical to the drone downed at Abha International Airport.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls upon the Security Council to uphold its responsibility towards the maintenance of international peace and security, by condemning these Houthi ballistic missile attacks and Houthi unmanned aerial vehicle violations of Saudi Arabia's sovereignty, and by holding the Houthi's Iranian sponsors accountable for furnishing this terrorist non-State group with ballistic missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technologies. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and numerous States Members of the United Nations have repeatedly shared insurmountable evidence that proves Iran supports the Houthi terrorist militias, in particular via smuggling ballistic missiles into Yemen to target the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2231 (2015). The continued escalation of Houthi ballistic missile attacks on my country demonstrates that the Security Council's inability to hold Iran accountable for its violations have sent the Houthis and their Iranian sponsors a clear signal that they should continue to target the Kingdom. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia considers

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the States that consistently shield Iran from accountability to be as responsible for the escalating Houthi attacks on my country as the Houthis themselves.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also reiterates its call for the swift implementation of the measures agreed upon during the meeting between the leadership of the United Nations verification and inspection mechanism and representatives from the "Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen", regarding increasing inspection measures. This is especially urgent, given that the mechanism's shortcomings have allowed Iran to arm the Houthi militias with ballistic missiles and advanced military equipment, used to launch more than 100 Houthi indiscriminate ballistic missile attacks towards densely populated civilian areas. The mechanism must be strengthened, in order to also prevent the recurrence of these Houthi terrorist attacks that also threaten the safety of maritime navigation in the Red Sea and the Mandeb Strait, as illustrated in my letter to you dated 3 April 2018.

Finally, my delegation requests that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Khaled **Almanzlawiy**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.